In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, and 3-17 as shown below.

Please add new claims 18 and 19.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:

connecting a network interface device to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

remotely controlling said network interface device, via the second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network;

wherein said step of remotely controlling includes remotely controlling said network interface device to switch from communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to-provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device; and

wherein the remote controlling is performed via a control signal independent of the switched communication lines.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first telephone service provider is an incumbent local exchange service provider and the second telephone service provider is a competitive local exchange service provider that provides fixed wireless communications services to the user.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:

connecting a network interface device to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

remotely controlling said network interface device, via the second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network;

wherein said step of remotely controlling includes remotely controlling said network interface device to switch from communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to-provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device; and

wherein said network interface device includes a remote unit, and wherein the remote unit is interconnected to an antenna for providing a fixed wireless communications path to the competitive local exchange service provider network.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:

connecting a network interface device to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

remotely controlling said network interface device, via the second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network;

wherein said step of remotely controlling includes remotely controlling said network interface device to switch from communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the

second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device; and

wherein ~~said~~ at least one of the first and second telephone service providers uses a digital broadband wireless air interface.

~~6~~5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device is interconnected to the user communications device via inside wiring of a user facility.

~~7~~6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device is interconnected to the communications device via a plurality of communications lines allowing transfer of a plurality of user telephone numbers from the first network to the second network, and for providing voice communications service to the user via the second network before the transferring of the user telephone number has been completed.

~~8~~7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said circuitry includes home phone network alliance circuitry to allow said ~~data~~ communications service.

~~9~~8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of remotely controlling reduces the time period for the transfer of the user telephone number from the time period required using the first telephone network for controlling the transfer of the user telephone number.

~~10~~9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network interface device includes a network communications device for communicating with the second telephone service provider network, and wherein the network communications device portion is located inside of a user facility and the remaining portion of the network interface device is substantially located outside of the a user facility.

~~11~~10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

~~12~~11. (Currently Amended) A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:

receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from a second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from a first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

switching, in response to the received control signals, communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device, wherein the remote controlling is performed via a control signal independent of the switched communication lines.

~~13~~12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

providing data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network by reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network; and

providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

~~14~~13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for porting a telephone number, comprising:

a network interface device interconnected to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

wherein said network interface devices includes circuitry for receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from the second telephone service provider network, for transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for switching communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device, wherein the remote controlling is performed via a control signal independent of the switched communication lines.

~~15~~14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

~~16~~15. (Currently Amended) A system for porting a telephone number, comprising:

a second telephone service provider network that provides telephone service to a plurality of users as an alternative to a first telephone service provider network;

a network interface device interconnected to the first telephone service provider network, the second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

wherein said network interface devices includes circuitry for receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from the second telephone service provider network, for transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for switching communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone provider network based on the control signals, the control signals being transmitted independently of the switched communication lines, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

~~17~~16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

~~18~~17. (Currently Amended) A method for porting a user telephone number, comprising:

providing telephone service to a plurality of users as an alternative telephone service provider network to a first telephone service provider network;

connecting a network interface device to the first telephone service provider network, the alternative network, and to at least one user communications device;

remotely transmitting control signals to the network interface device for transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the alternative provider network; and

wherein said step of remotely transmitting includes remotely transmitting control signals to switch communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the alternative provider network, the control signals being transmitted independently of the switched communication lines, and to provide voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the ~~second~~ alternative telephone service provider network.

18. (New) An apparatus for porting a telephone number of a user communications device coupled to a first service provider to a second service provider, comprising:

a first communication link coupled to the first service provider;

a second communication link coupled to the second service provider; and

a network interface device coupled to the first telephone service provider via the first communication link, coupled to the second telephone service provider via the second communication link, and coupled to the user communications device;

a control line coupled between the network interface device and the second service provider; and

circuitry within the network interface device configured to receive a control signal from the second telephone service provider via the control line, the circuitry responsive to the received control signal to switch the user communications device from

the first communication link to the second communication link whereby voice communications service for the user via the user communications device is changed from the first service provider to the second service provider.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the second communication link is a wireless communication link.